

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended): A test device, comprising a support with a top surface, a bottom surface and a sample receiving aperture therethrough, and a reagent pad affixed to the support and underlying and [immediately adjoining] contacting the receiving aperture, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface of the support surrounding the aperture has a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent at between about 600 and 730 nm, and wherein the aperture and [the] said at least a portion of the bottom surface of the support surrounding the aperture with a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent between about 600 and 730 nm correspond to an optical viewing area of a meter with which the test device will be used.
2. (Original): The device of claim 1, wherein substantially the entire bottom surface has a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent at between about 600 and 730 nm.
3. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 1, wherein the sample receiving aperture is suitable for receiving a fluid volume of less than or equal to about 5 μ l.
4. (Original): The device of claim 1, 2 or 3, further comprising:
 - a.) a longitudinal axis, a distal edge substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis and configured of insertion into a measurement instrument having an alignment member; and
 - b.) an alignment notch formed in the distal edge for engagement with the alignment member and comprising opposing edges wherein at least a portion of the opposing edges is in substantially parallel relation to the longitudinal axis.
5. (Currently Amended): A test device, comprising:
 - a.) a support member defining a longitudinal axis comprising:
 - i.) a top surface, a bottom surface and a sample receiving aperture therethrough;

- ii.) a distal edge substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis and configured for insertion into a measurement instrument; and
 - iii.) an alignment notch formed in the distal edge for engagement with an alignment member of the measuring instrument and comprising opposing edges wherein at least a portion of the opposing edges is in substantially parallel relation to the longitudinal axis, and
- b.) a reagent pad fixed to the support member and underlying and [immediately adjoining] contacting the aperture, the reagent pad including reagent material selected for reacting with at least one analyte, wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface of the support surrounding the aperture has a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent at between about 600 and 730 nm and wherein the aperture and [the] said at least a portion of the bottom surface of the support with a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent between about 600 and 730 nm correspond to an optical viewing area of the measuring instrument.
6. (Original): The device of claim 5, wherein substantially the entire bottom surface has a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent at between about 600 and 700 nm.
7. (Currently Amended): The device of claim 5, wherein the sample receiving aperture is suitable for receiving a fluid volume of less than or equal to about 5 μ l.
8. (Original): The test device of claim 5, 6, or 7, wherein the opposing edges comprise at least three portions wherein two of the three portions of the opposing edges are in angular relation to the longitudinal axis.
9. (Original): The test device of claim 5, 6 or 7, wherein the portion of the opposing edges in substantially parallel relation is located in between the two portions of the opposing edges in angular relation to the longitudinal axis.

10. (Currently Amended): A system for measuring the concentration of at least one analyte in a fluid, comprising

a.) at least one test strip comprising a support member with a top surface, a bottom surface and a sample receiving aperture therethrough, and a reagent pad affixed to the support and underlying and [immediately adjoining] contacting the receiving aperture; and

b.) a colorimeter

wherein at least a portion of the bottom surface of the support surrounding the aperture has a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent at between about 600 and 730 nm and wherein the aperture and [the] said at least a portion of the bottom surface of the support with a reflectivity of less than about 12 percent between about 600 and 730 nm correspond to an optical viewing area of the colorimeter.

11. (Currently Amended): The system of claim 10, wherein the sample receiving aperture is a [support member further comprises a] substantially obround-shaped aperture for receiving a volume of less than or equal to about 5 μ l of the fluid.

12. (Previously presented): The system of claim 10, wherein the support member further comprises an alignment notch comprising opposing parallel edges.